

REMARKS

In light of the amendments above and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 15, 16, 22, and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 9-14 and 17-21 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to present the canceled claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Claims 9-11 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application 2002/0103919 to Hannaway. As previously mentioned claims 9-11 and 17 are canceled.

Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hannaway in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,850,496 Knappe et al. As previously mentioned claims 12-14 are canceled.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's assertion that claims 1-8, 22, and 23 are allowable.

The Examiner objected to claims 15 and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 15 and 16 have been rewritten herein to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 15 and 16 is respectfully requested. Please note that claims 15 and 16 were slightly amended to correct some inconsistencies.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested

that he/she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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